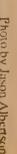
NORTH OCTOBER 1991 MISSION NEWS

513 VALENCIA STREET #11 • SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94110 • (415) 626-2882 Editor-in Chief: Victor Miller





DAY OF THE DEAD '91

See Page 13

STONEWALLED AT 850 BRYANT

by Brian Doohan

An overflow crowd of angry Mission residents harangued San Francisco Police Commissioners for several hours into the night of Sep. 25th, coming away with only a renewed suspicion that their neighborhood might as well be on another planet for all that City officials appear to care.

The occasion was a report by the Departmental Statistician on crime figures which, he cheerily declared, showed "a modest reduction Citywide" and an "impressive" reduction in the Tenderloin during the day.

At this point the crowd, bolstered by a contingent of seniors enraged by

slothful 911 service and already angry at the ongoing recitation of numbers and the late start, disrupted the hearing and brought a peeved response from Commission President John Keker who declared "the purpose is to hear from the Police Department". Asked if the people would be permitted to respond, he warned "it will be an open meeting until people repeat themselves."

When the statistician packed away his numbers, Hilda Bernstein of the Liberty Hill Neighbors and Mission Task Force stood up to demand a fixed percentage of the next Police Academy "as an add- on, not as replacements".

The audience eheered and held up see Page 3

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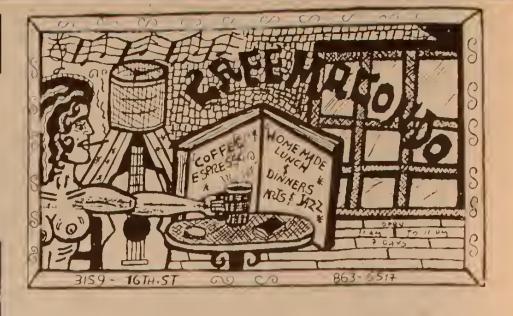
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STONEWALLED

continued from page 1

signs, typical of which was "The Mission Must Not Be The New Tenderloin". And then a long (and occasionally repetitious) parade of angry citizens trooped up to the podium to heap upon the five Commissioners their fair share of abuse.

Andrew Solow, who has been fighting the deterioration of the 19th and Folsom playground said that the crime decrease in the Tenderloin was due to displacement of evildoers to the Mission and that crime statistic were meaningless because many victims were undocumented and afraid to report offenses. Anita Corea who has been marching against crime in the 16th and Capp area decried the "rosy picture", stating "we are here to tell you that none of us share these perceptions."

Urination was mentioned repeatedly as were MUNI transfer sales, loud car stereos, and police who take too many vacations. One man presented a sheaf of petitions calling for immediate action against everything from dumping used motor oil into the street to the illegal possession of supermarket shopping carts. "Littering and bars and alcohol are not a low priority," he railed, "that is a cop-out!"

A nurse at San Francisco General noted the new gang fad of pouring boiling oil over the faces of rivals, a drug counselor at the Native American Clinic noted the increase in crime around Julian Street as a result of crackdowns on Mission Street and Valencia Gardens and a former Presidio Heights resident expressed shock at the differing police attitudes in her old neighborhood vs. her new.

"You should do your job and not sit up here thinking why doesn't she shut up and go home!" she screamed at the Commissioners who stared back with waxy faces and hands furtively concealed beneath their long desk... bringing an aggricved response from Keker (who was probably in a bad mood to begin with, being Ollie North's old prosecutor and having to recently watch the Iran-Contra conspirator strut off free on a technicality) to the general effect that there was no money to hire more police without liring health workers or other necessary personnel.

When order returned, the testimony took on a lower key but distinctly more ominous tone. One resident celebrated the joys of Mace, another warned "if you don't enforce the law, I'm afraid there are going to be people who will do things themselves." But the speaker who made the Commissioners snap to and take notice was Chuck Ayala who read a letter from his mother about the senior center at 15th and Julian. "Our seniors are frightened by groups of rowdy youngsters panhandling aggressively as they leave the building."

Ayala, a College Board member, a relative conservative and one of the few non-whites to address the Commission admitted "I'm beginning to hear some alarming things" and compared the situation to an incipient revolution.

It may be that the Mission is one incident away from collapsing into the black hole of all out eivil war that has engulfed such neighborhoods as Crown Heights in Brooklyn. A number of Guardian Angels attended the meeting and while they did not testify, their spokesman promised citizens' arrests of drug dealers and prostitutes - a reversal of previous G.A. policy of intervening only during crimes against persons.

While the Commission dithers and the City goes broke the Mission is tensing like a bungee cord coming to the



PROTESTING NEIGHBORS WERE IGNORED BY THE POLICE COMMISSION

end of its run around a cheap sneaker. Sooner or later an altereation over pissing in a doorway or aggressive panhandling is going to end in a stabbing or shooting and then the gates will be flung open.

San Francisco, after all, showed the rest of the country how to get things done in the 1850s when masked vigilantes rounded up their enemies and dispatched quick and final justice. Of course they shot or hanged a few innocent people along with the varmints but, at the time, they thought that it worth the bother and things haven't changed all that much since the heyday of the Sydney Ducks.

The Police Commission should have gotten the hint even before the testimony took place based on the virulent reaction to a presentation by an ACLU spokesman discussing the courts' denial of an initiative to arrest non-violent street beggars. While the crowd hissed and hooted, Police Chief Willis Casey put on a long face and sighed "the Federal Courts have taken another tool

away from San Francisco to improve its quality of life."

Keker managed only another copout, "the homeless and begging problem is not going to be solved by the police. It's going to be solved some other way, I hope."

Keep badgering the Police Commissioners? Sure! say several Mission community representatives. Share your views on crime and punishment with them by calling 553-1667 or stop by the Hall of Justice at 850 Bryant every Wednesday at 5:30 PM.



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LAWMEN ON THE RUN

by Brian Doohan

One of the biggest, if not the biggest issue facing those running for Mayor is what to do with the crack dealers, other criminals and homeless panhandlers who infest every crevice of neighborhoods like the Mission.

It is a sign of the times that, in liberal San Francisco, two of the five top contenders come from a law enforcement hackground. It is also characteristic that, while former Sheriff and Supervisor and present Assessor Richard Hongisto and former Police Chief Frank Jordan both stress fiscal responsibility as well as crime control, they offer markedly different approaches that can best be described as substance or style-oriented. One speaks to the brain, the other to the gut.

Voters who already are making the election a referendum on the Agnos regime will first have to decide from which organ the opposition will be framed.

(hopefully) biodegrade.

Hongisto promises more position papers, more facts and issues. A bored, sensation-starved electorate begins to yawn. Maybe the candidate should put on a chicken-costume and run down 24th Street shouting pledges to open all of the doors to all the cages in the San Francisco Zoo. What more can he do?

At least the paucity of the press corps affords the candidate time to respond to questions from marginal publications like the News. Not only did he draft all these proposals, he can explain them!

For example, he contends that the Police Department's problems exist because it is "top heavy in brass". He would retire the Chiefs and replace them with more Indians, in the venerable (if perhaps politically incorrect) analogy. "The first priority of government should be to save lives."

But that is also what a number of housing, Latino and Asian activists with long memories are saying about his eviction of the elderly tenants of the I-Hotel which remains an empty hole years after its demolition. And they have, perhaps, an unusual ally in Chief Administrative Officer Rudy Nothenberg, whose office would also be slated for eviction under Hongisto.

Hongisto counters charges that the proposal is a Mayoral "power grab" by stating that since political integrity has

improved since the corrupt old days, a separate, non-political CAO is no longer needed. He did allow, however, that the proposal would probably require approval by the voters.

Nothenberg himself responded to News inquiries with a brusque "no comment". Reaction to Hongisto's proposals from other candidates has been muted... perhaps because they don't understand them, perhaps because they wouldn't mind grabbing a little power themselves, but more likely because they don't want to anger his supporters if the polls hold fast and Hongisto's endorsement proves important to the two survivors.

Just as Tom Hsieh has been hsarply (?) critical of Jordan, his main competitor for conservative votes, Hongisto has directed most of his wrath at Angela Alioto, slamming her support of such "anti-environmental schemes" as the downtown baseball park.

This is politics, but there's also a visible frustration among Hongisto supporters. After all, the race would have been a predictable contest between Agnos and two conservatives until Hongisto gave a voice and choice to liberals who felt betrayed by the incumbent. Alioto's late entry sort of leaves him looking like Eugene McCarthy after Robert Kennedy's entry in the 1968 Democratic primary... if LBJ had chosen to tough it out with all the

HONGISTO:

CEREBRAL EX-SHERIFF



If political races were decided by reason, by research and by the fine strokes of accountants' pencils, Richard Hongisto would be a good bet to sweep a majority in November and spare us all the ordeal of an expected runoff. Instead, he places fourth or fifth in most polls behind Agnos, Jordan and Supervisor Angela Alioto.

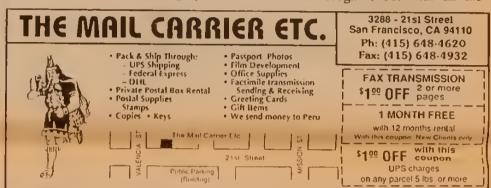
His response to each bad poll is another detailed position paper but, while his standing has improved, he'll still have to make up major territory this month. So far, the bean counters are taking a major whacking from the gladhanders.

Still, Hongisto earries on. What more can he do?

A clear example of his problem was the absence of many major media concerns from his September 18th press conference at which he unveiled a financial platform that will purportedly cut 4,000 City johs and save \$700 million.

As one lone camcorder in the sparsely populated Hongisto headquarters whirred on, the candidate promised these savings would effect restoration of hand-on services like police, fire and health, cuts in business taxes and MUNI fares, and the replacement of the \$175 million "Agnos deficit" with a \$65 million "Hongisto surplus".

His earlier and similarly detailed environmental platform is even longer - 46 proposals covering everything from electric vehicles (pro) to golf courses and English ivy (con). Unfortunately, the environmentally unsound response of most Mission residents has been to kick the proposals off their doorsteps and into the gutters to accumulate and



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resources of incumbency.

Some day the electorate may respond to cerebral candidacies, but until then Hongisto has to carve out enough votes to make the runoff by preserving old Victorians and native vegetation with one hand while protect-

ing consumers of an obsolcte bureaucracy with the other. The Mission, of course, will judge his campaign based on these in a relatively West to East proportion. And what more can

JORDAN: THE NOSTALGIA CANDIDATE



To figure out the appeal of former Police Chief Frank Jordan, you need look no further than his campaign headquarters phone number... 749-1919 (the others favor 1991 or 1992 suffixes).

The candidate's literature is filled with pictures of ancestors dating back to and beyond that blessed year, as well as fellow police recruits from the class of '56 (liberally interspersed with shots of the Chief petting a police horsie and at his desk with a lapful of teddy bears). The mood evoked is a sepia-toned era when tough but classy WASPS ran the economy, Irish and Italian ethnics controlled the city services and waterfront, women opened parasols and closed their mouths and colored people rarely pecked out from the back rooms of hotels, laundries or restaurants. All that's missing is the derby ard cigar.

"Dutch" Reagan was t vice elected Governor, then President on nostalgia and Jordan could cash in on the anger that native and not-so-native San Franciseans hold for queers and bums, for coloreds and for yuppies... and especially those effete Eastern outsider like Art Agnos (whom Hongisto dismisses as "the best Mayor Boston ever had").

Still, he's a long way from the last Police Chief Frank to rule a major city... Philadelphia's Frank Rizzo who paraded black prisoners before the media in their undies flacked and busted white anti-war radicals with drugs and porn and boasted his administration "would make Attila the Hun look like a faggot".

I knew Rizzo well, and Jordan isn't a Frank Rizzo. Not even close. Speaking before the Richmond Democratic Club, a neighborhood representing the approximate center of the political spectrum, the Chief ticked off a familiar rosary of complaints (sneering homeless panhandlers attacking tourists, Godfearing business interests boycotting a Missouri-and-Olympics-bashing,

sanctuary-declaring, Deputy Mayor-ridden administration), but all the buzzwords fell out of his mouth in such reasonable tones that many nodded their heads in agreement.

"The business community is voting with its feet," he warns. "They're leaving San Francisco. I can get this city working again for all of us."

> Off the stump, he's even more teddy bear than pit viper and goes so far as to give cautionary praise for Mayor Agnos' Mission Task Force. Having lived for a time at 17th and Guerrero, he points out that he's a candidate of the Mission and so will consider retaining anything that could help the neighborhood - even the prodigy of a political adversary.

> For Frank Jordan, Mission Street is still "The Miracle Mile", and he warms up to a crusade to restore it to former glories... he even speaks of a "five year plan" for the neighborhood.

> Still, the Mission seems less interested in its storied past than about a couple of unpleasant present issues... the Dolores Huerta beating and the allegations of covering for bad cops brought by Families Against Drugs,

"I looked at all the evidence," Jordan says of the latter, "and determined that it was inconclusive. The Mayor could have fired me then - he didn't. Only now is there a negative reaction from the Mayor's office."

Jordan's press secretary Larry Maatz, a former police reporter for the Examiner, says that the former Police Chief is "between a rock and a hard place" in that he is not legally permitted to comment on a matter under investigation. He added that the allegations had been dismissed by several agencies including the FBI, an opinion seconded by Police Commissioner and Agnosbacker Lou Giraudo (also a target of F.A.D).

The Chief's angrier supporters do have something to applaud in his proposal to round up the homeless and cart them off to the San Bruno Jail. Sheriff Michael Hennessey (without commenting on the validity or legality of the plan or on the Mayor's race) told the News the jail is presently full, although Jordan has asked him about new construction on city-owned land down there.

The Sheriff estimates that the price

tag would be about \$25,000 per cell plus \$1,800 per prisoner per month, although these costs could be reduced if the homeless were incarcerated in a less heavily secured facility.

Even so, it's a proposal to raise not only the left eyebrow of homeless advocates but the right of the bean-counters.

Such quick-draw responses to complex municipal issues raise the question of whether Jordan is in control of his own campaign. In addition to sharing resources with the popular anti-Deputy Mayor Proposition H, Jordan's campaign is tangled with that of the vacancy rent control repeal and its political masterminds Jack Davis (who, with cronies like Warren Hinckle and the Mitchell Brothers is famous for staging food fights in costly Polk Street dives before the eyes of the bewildered homeless and hungry) and fired Dianne Feinstein operative Clint Reilly (whose hundred million dollar campaign on behalf of the insurance companies a few years back got creamed).

One of the more notable political disasters of the still-young decade occurred at the funeral of Ray Towbis, (Hennessey's popular assistant and the reputed model for Tom Wolfe's "Maumauing the Flak Catchers") when Davis passed out scurrilous, though funny, anti-Agnos postcards during the ceremony and was all but booted out of the graveyard by angry mourners.

A few more incidents of this sort may really plant the Chief's effort in the cold, wet December earth. If enough unconsecrated mud is flying, people will start asking how Jordan can expect to run a city when he can't even control his own campaign... and whether he'd be much more than a useful plaything for State Senator Quentin Kopp.

Still, Jordan has money, a reservoir of angry backers and a big ace in the hole... Art Agnos.

If he and the Mayor square off in a low-turnout December runoff, it will be an interesting to see if San Franciscans are so turned off by four years of deputy mayors and "things not to be proud of" that they vote their... shall we say it... spleen?



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MISSION TASKFORCE UPDATE

NIGHT OF THE UNGRATEFUL DEAD

by Victor Miller

At its September meeting with Mayor Art Agnos in attendance, the Mayor's Taskforce on the Mission approved a wide ranging program for community action and improvement.

Proposals of the Task Force's six committees, which include nearly 200 Mission District residents, were debated and, with only a few changes, were endorsed by the 24 member body.

One taskforce project, publication of a Spanish language tenants-rights handbook has already been completed. Copies of the finished booklet were passed out at the meeting.

During the taskforce's six month existence, committees have been struggling to develop work plans that address the needs of the Mission's diverse and often feuding sub-communities. The fact that the taskforce has, at last, hammered out a set of objectives represents a significant step forward for the

Mission District which has been rudderless for so many years.

Mayor Agnos, to the relief of all and the amazement of some, refrained from any sort of campaign rhetoric and, instead, worked in a pragmatic give and take way with taskforce members to move through a complex series of issues.

Highlights of the taskforce committce work plans are as follows:

PUBLIC SAFETY AND CITY SERVICES

- 1. A Mission Priority workplan to be developed by each city department specifying what each department will do to improve the quality of life in the Mission district.
- 2. A Mission Hotel blitz by all appropriate city departments.

PARKS AND RECREATION

- 1. Acquisition of 4 new park sites and renovation of 5 existing sites.
- 2. Development of Park and Recreation volunteer groups whose members would act as coaches and recreation directors.

PLANNING AND ZONING

- 1. Rezoning of the Mission's Northeast Industrial Zone.
- 2. An ongoing review of "special needs housing" and large scale developments proposed for the Mission.
- 3. Sponsorship of a community meeting on the Residential Rezoning Plan of the City Planning Department.

CULTURAL AND ARTS PROMOTION

- 1. Promotion of Mission Arts through a publication of a Mission Arts Guide and holding a performing arts festival.
- 2. Enhancement and encouragement of connection between artists and the community with special emphasis on arts programs in local schools.
- 3. Protection of Public Art in the Mission.
- 4. Application of the Art Commission's Art Policy Plan including increased live work space and increasing local artists' involvement in neighborhood design projects such as the redesign of the 16th and 24th Street BART Stations.

HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

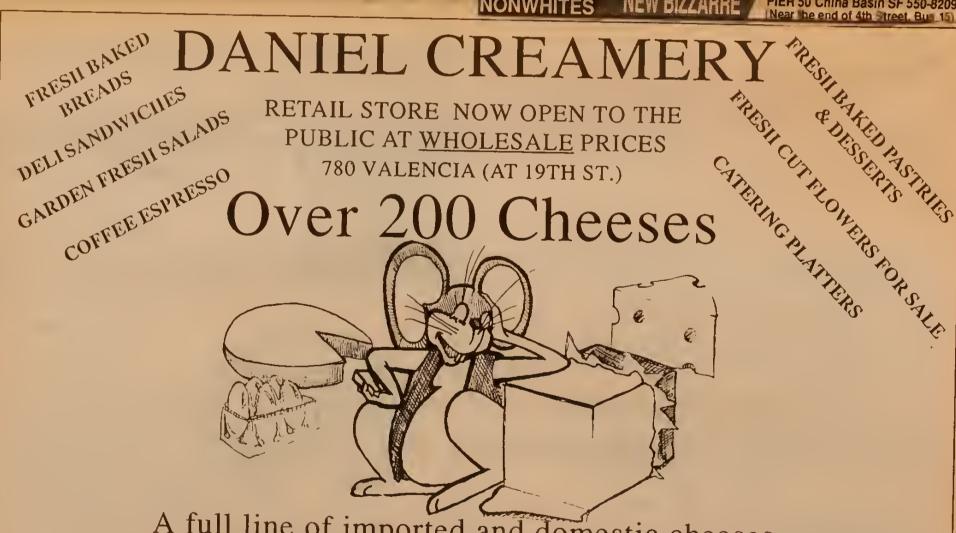
- 1. Education in the area of tenantlandlord rights, i.e. the Spanish Language Tenants' Rights Handbook.
- 2. An increased amount of affordable housing through the proceeds of a code violations fund.
- 3. Identification of people and institutions causing the housing crisis and those helping to solve it.
- 4. Promotion of non-profit owner-ships.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL POLICY

- 1. A review of all economic development/human service organizations in the Mission to eliminate overlap and define needed projects.
 - 2. A Mission District Directory.
- 3. A residents' survey regarding the needs for businesses and human services.

These projects and objectives are still in the formative stages and will require the energy and ideas of more and more Mission residents as time goes on. If you are interested in getting involved, contact Efren Roman at 864-6432.





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THE HIGH RISK GROUP

The acclaimed Deborah Hay Workshop, the High Risk Group dance company, solo performer Ernesto Sanchez and a theatre piece by Joan Hotchkis highlight Footwork's "Edge Festival" which will be seen weekends at Footwork, 3321 22nd Street through November 9th.

Footwork's "Edge Festival" launches its sixth season at the Footwork Studio, 3321 22nd Street this month, withweekend performances through November 9th. Among the programs are:

The acclaimed Deborah Hay Workshop, highly praised by the New York Times...

A premiere by the High Risk dance company about, and by dancers with the HIV virus, in keeping with the troupe's previous relentless political attacks.

A world premiere by respected solo performer Ernesto Sanchez, who weaves Balinese mask dancing and mime, and...

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CRACK CONTROL

Residents of the block of Julian Street between 15th and 16th held a street rally, rummage sale and block mobilization party on September 22nd to draw attention to the growing problem of crime on their block.

Since an increased police presence has manifested in the Valencia Gardens housing project and on Mission Street, crack dealers and other criminals have drifted into residential streets and alleys and resumed business.

But on the 22nd, residents came out of their apartments, petitions were circulated to the Mayor and the Supervisors and the block was patrolled by a wary corps of Guardian Angels. For this one day, at least, the crooks decided to move their operations elsewhere, fulfilling the prediction of former Mission Police Captain Michael Brush (now a commander of three downtown SFPD precincts) that fighting the crack trade was like a squeezing a balloon - you stop it in one location and it pops up in another.

The 15th and Julian neighbors promise further actions to see that the balloon doesn't bulge up on their block. (For further information, call 863-2116.)

CONDOMANIA

Many Mission renters have begun receiving slick, expensive fliers promising "home ownership opportunities for renters", ostensibly by well dressed, smiling, photogenic young professionals calling themselves Renters For Home Ownership.

Their ballot vehicle is Proposition N, which they bill as a Home Ownership Initiative. The City Attorncy and Registrar of Voters took a different view after inspecting the measure (submitted by Supervisors Willie Kennedy, Tom Hsieh, Jim Gonzalez and Bill Maher) and called it simply "Condominiums".

Proposition N would repeal all city measures limiting condo conversion. Instead, renters could buy their units with special terms for five years and those who could not afford to buy could not be legally evicted for failure to do so.

In a city where perhaps 10% of the population can afford to buy a home, Prop. N looks great. But in a city where political deception is also a fine art, Prop. N holds serious implications for renters in neighborhoods like the Mission.

A North Mission News investigation of city records uncovered the fact that the smiling "renters" are merely fronts for a small cabal of real estate speculators. Of the ten who appear in the voter's handbook, 8 are City residents... 5 in a Diamond Heights complex owned by condo mogul Zev Ben Simon and two more in a SOMA complex financed with the help of the controversial San Francisco Redevelopment Agency.

Ben Simon, known as the developer who is building wall to wall beachfront condos on the site of the old Playland property, was identified as the supplier of all of Prop. N's finding through his Cypress Management group.

Since the small print allows for speculators to exploit Prop. N's benefits, leaving legitimate homehuyers stuck with big balloon payments and will also encourage harassment of tenants, particularly those too poor to hire lawyers or with English problems, a broad and very diverse coalition including Mayor Agnos and his usual rival, State Senator Quentin Kopp urge a NO vote on N.

ART & SURVIVAL

hree intriguing workshops on becoming artists, "Workshops on the Realities of the Art World" (translation: How the hell do you feed yourself if you're trying to make art?) are coming up in The Mission in mid-October.

Open to people of all ages and sponsored by Capp Street Project, the workshops are intended primarily for persons of diverse cultures who are considering careers in the visual arts. Participants will be able to converse with others in the same leaky boat and get lots of information and advice from a variety of known Bay Area artists at very low cost - a donation of \$4 for one, \$10 if you sign up for all three in advance. There is limited space at each workshop, so persons interested should call 626-7747 in advance.

Workshop 1: At the Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission Street (821-1155) on Saturday, October 12 from 10 AM to 4 PM. Conducted by Mission artist/writer Michael S. Bell, this session will cover "Self-management, the Business of Being an Artist." Bell will conduct a dialogue session with the artists, share specifics on everything from contracts and taxes to pricing, copyrights and framing. He'll share stories of "pain, demons, fear, hypocrisy and lies," according to Bell. The stuff of art, if ever we heard it.

At this Saturday session, Mission District arts organizations will have

their literature and employment information available, and a number of representatives will be present over the lunch break and at the end of the session to talk with participating artists.

The second and third workshops will be held on two successive evenings, 7 PM to 10 PM Monday and Thesday, October 14 and 15 at Capp Street Project, 270 14th Street between Mission Street and South Van Ness.

Workshop 2: Guerrilla Girls West, who love to attack (usually in physical ways) sexist and racist practices in the art world, will share a panel with Caryl Henry, Betty Kano, Maria Pinedo and moderator Jon Winet on "The Artist in the Community — The Community and the Artist". Pluses and minuses of community participation - resources, impact on development of communities, consorship, cultural diversity - will be covered, along with questions and coments from the artists in the workshop.

Workshop 3: On "Creative Ways to Support ONeself as an Artist" will be another panel, moderated by Susan Miller of Capp Stret Project. Calvin Yau Kaleonahe Ching, who teaches mask-making, Yoga and T'ai chi at the County Jail, will share the table with career advisor/singer Renee Hayes and psychotherapist Mandy Aftel. Info on internships and apprenticeships, and practical and psychological issues affecting supporting oneself as an artist are among the topics.

WOMEN'S WORK

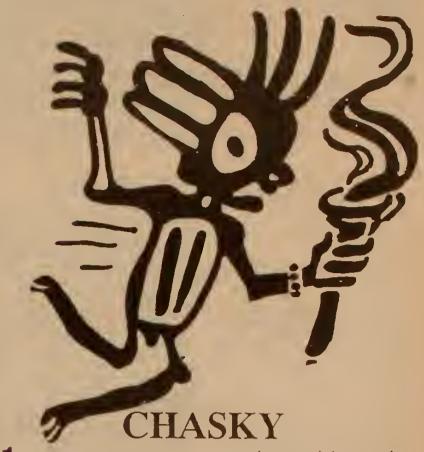
A four day festival celebrating the work of women in film, video and television takes place October 17-20 at the Roxie Cinema, 3117 16th at Valen; cia and the Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission at 25th.

Highlights include the US premieres of films from Australia, Spain, Britain, France and the US. The opening film "Grand Isle" is directed by Mary Lambert and stars Kelly McGillis, Ellen Burstyn, Glenn Headly, Adrian

Pasdar and Julian Sands. Based on Kate Chopin's forbidden 1899 novel "The Awakening", it is preceded by a 7:30 PM ceremony honoring director Lambert.

Lambert, together with Dyan Cannon, Virginia Capers and Nobu Mc-Carthy will be presented Career Achievedment Awards during the festival. Two seminars on women in film will also be held on Sunday, the 20th at Mission Cultural Center.

Check the Roxie calendar for screening dates and times, or call 863-1087 or 648-2321.



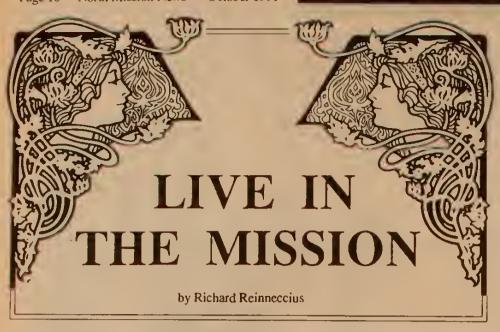
1 991 marks 500 years of Columbus' treachery in the Americas according to the organizers of the Second Continental Chasky of Self Discovery - a program of events that will include ritual, poetry, dance, street theatre and visual arts and highlighting a procession up 24th Street to Potrero del Sol Park at noon, October 12th.

The "Chasky" is a term the lncas used for foot messengers who carried

news between their respective communities. Event organizer Luis Vasquez says the event will be "an opportunity for local people to participate artistically in celebrating their own cultural identities and, at the same time, express their opposition to the bigotry and devastation caused by Eurocentric dominance of the Americas, Africa and Asia."

For further information, call the Chasky Info Line at 863-3314.





PALESTINIAN MURAL

Palestinian villages once stood." – Marlene Tobias.

"Resistance to the Israeli occupation does exist among many Jews in Israel, and this resistance has been and continues to be led and sustained by women. One such group is Women in Black... every Friday at noon many Jewish women gather throughout Israel wearing black and holding signs like this one that say (in Hebrew) 'End the Occupation!' (This portrait) is of a survivor of the Auschwitz Concentration Camp. We chose to honor her as a way to remember that 'Never Again' must mean 'Never Again - To Anyone, Anywhere'." — Beth Sauerhaft.

"Children are our hope for the future. The bird carries on its wings colors of the new state of Palestine. Together, the bird and boy follow the BRAVA!

BRAVA! for Women in the Arts has the newest theatre in the neighborhood, in the landmark building at 2180 Bryant, corner 20th and Bryant Streets. Opening October 18 for three weeks is "Dirty Laundry", h. Teirrah McNair's solo performance of her own "sharp, funny, poignant sketch of eight black women". It all happens in Honey's Laundromat in East Palo Alto, run by Big Maina. McNair, in the performance style of Lily Tomlin and Whoopi Goldberg (whom she understudied in "Moms) plays all eight women "Honey's isn't jus' a place to wash socks," according to the author.

"Dirty Laundry", directed by Rudy Morris, plays Fridays and Saturdays at 8, Sundays at 3:30 at BRAVA Studio Theatre. Call 641-7657.

hood. "Our Roots Are Still Alive", the first mural in this country to depict themes and people of Palestine, was unveiled and celebrated with an all day street fair on 21st Street at Mission on September 21. Subtitled "Palestinian People Will Be Free - Everyone Has A Right To A Homeland", the striking mural is the product of a group of Jewish-American women artists, who formed the Break The Silence Mural Project and Artists Network, traveling to the Occupied Territories of West Bank and Gaza in 1989, creating six colorful murals there, in collaboration with local Palestinian artists and com-

munity people, and teaching art classes for children and adults. This is their

first mural in the U.S.

The Mission boasts another inural, this one possibly the most controversial of the many that cover walls of schools, businesses and houses in the neighbor-

There wasn't a politician in sight, though this is election season, as the draped mural was suddenly unveiled to the crowd at the start of the celebration, which included music of almost any culture you could name. A sincere and powerful speech on the sufferings of Palestinian children and adults was made by Fadia Salfiti of Middle East Children's Alliance The muralists, in brief, effective and personal words, described each of the symbols in the large painting.

Some of the highlights of their descriptions: "A huge olive tree lifts her branches to the sky... the ancient tree of peace contains the spirit of the ancestors, the foremothers of Palestine, holding the flag aloft and keeping the dream alive, passing on the culture to everyone. Nestled in her roots sits a young woman... surrounded by the brilliant anemone, her national flower... a woman with visions of the homeland she loves... holds a helmet of war she has changed into a bowl of seeds for the dove of peace." — Miranda Bergman.



A FESTIVE CROWD OF SEVERAL HUNDREDS ATTENDED THE PALESTINIAN MURAL DEDICATION

"I have heard that when you dream about a horse your life is going to change dramatically. In Arab culture, horses are a symbol of resistance and freedom... The cartoon character Handala is the signature of the cartoonist Najil Ali (who was assassinated in London three years ago for his art). Handala is always in the corner of Ali's satiric cartoons... (We put him in) because he is so popular in Palestine and because he is an example of how powerful and threatening art can be. — Susan Greene.

"A cactus that yields fruit so sweet and succulent, whose roots lie so deep in the ground that they continue to grow even when the people who tended them were forced to leave their homes. In Palestine, we were told this cactus, the saber, means patience. Where you see groves of them still growing is where shoreline in their flight to freedom. In the tradition of community muralism, we chose Kareem, a Palestinian and son of the corner store owner to be the model for the boy. It is our hope that Kareem will soon run freely in his homeland." — Debra Mirov.

The full description will be printed up, with a sketch of the mural, and will be available soon at Cafe Nidal, Arabic Book Center and other places. For more information on the project, call 540-0161 or write Break The Silence, 1442A Walnut #252, Berkeley 94709. For a wide range of books and other information on Palestine and the Middle East, visit the Arabic Book Center, on Valencia near 19th Street.

"To be witness to injustice and do nothing is to be accomplice to the crime." – The Talmud.

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☐ Thur-Sun • Oct 17-20 WOMEN IN FILM AND VIDEO **FESTIVAL!**

The Roxie is pleased to host this year's annual testival of new films and video from some of the most talented and ambitious women directors working today. One of the highlights will be the U.S. Theatrical Premiere of Mary Lambert's new film GRANO ISLE starring Kelly McGillis. A complete program for this event will be applied to cartly Ostabati. available in early October!



THUNOERCRACK Positively not for prudes THUNOERCRACK is one of the most hilarious, most erolic and most enjoyable send-ups of the Hollywood myth ever! Written by George Kuchar Directed by Curl McDowell B&W. 120 mins. 1975

MON at 9:00

Tuesday A program of shorts including
BAGGY OEPOT, TASTELESS TRILOGY, NAUGHTY WORDS,
CONFESSIONS, WIENERS AND BUNS, LOADS Total time 90

☐TUE at 7:00 SPARKLE'S TAVERN This film continued McDowell's interests in parody of the grand Hollywood style, the exploration of the nuclear family and its breakdown and the examination of the teacher

fool-a recurrent ligure in his films, 120 mins, 1984 ☐ TUE at 9:00



A HENRY MILLER **CELEBRATION!**

A day-long program of films about one of the most notonous literary figures of our generation

HENRY AND JUNE Director Phil Kautman's evocative tribute to Henry, his wife June and Anais Nin-With Fred Ward, Uma Thur-

man and Maria de Medieros. Color. 135 mins. 1990. ☐ SAT at 2:00 and 8:45

A HENRY MILLER OOYSSEY Robert Snyder's imaginative documentary on Miller is frank and revealing! Color 110 mins. 1969

ANAIS OBSERVEO. A beautiful profile on the influential writer who was to become integral to Henry's life. Directed by Robert Snyder. Color 67 mins 1973

SAT at 6:50

ST. EMIL JOINS HENRY MILLER An intimate portrait of the Iriendship between Miller and Emil White. Directed by Joe Kishton 28 mins



□ Wed • Oct 9 KAMIKAZE HEARTS

A raw story about the impossible relationship between Tigr and Mitch, a beautiful pornistar Tigr's life is changed forever when she is drawn underground into Mitch's world, a demi-monde of strip-joint rock & roll, mainlined cocaine and high-paying commercial sex. The film draws freely from both documentary and dramatic conventions and is by sudden turns complicated, stirring and controversial. Filmed on location in San Francisco. Directed by Juliet Bayshore, With Tigr Mennett and Sharon Mitchell Color, 80 mins, 1988.

□ WEO at 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00 and 10:00

Thur-Wed • Oct 10-16

GENA ROWLANDS, JOHN MARLEY, SEYMOUR CASSEL LYNN CARLIN FREO ORAPER, and VAL AVERY Writen and Ovecled by John Cassaveies

Thurs & Fri, Oct 10 & 11 B&W 130 mins 1968

Statting PETER FALK and GENA ROWLANDS

Sat & Sun, Oct 12 & 13 A WOMAN UNGER THE INFLUENCE Color 155 mins 1974

□SAT & SUN at 2:00, 5:00 and 8:15

OPENING NIGHT

Stationg GENA HOWLANDS, BIN GAZZARA JOAN BIONDELL PAUL STEWART, ZOHRA LAMPERT me JOHN CASSAVETES
Written and Oriected by John Cassaveter

Mon, Oct 14 OPENING NIGHT Color 144 mins 1978

□ MON at 7:00 and 9:45

and ANTHONY RAY
Directed by John Cassavetes

Tues, Oct 15 SHAOOWS

B&W 87 mins 1960 □TUES at 6:00, 8:00 and 10:00

THE KILLING OF A CHIMSE BOOKIE

Statting BEN GAZZARA and SEYMOUR CASSEL Written and Oriented by John Cassanetes

Wed, Oct 16
KILLING OF A CHINESE BOOKIE Color 136 mins 1976 WED at 1:30, 4:15, 7:00 and 9:45



Grey Fox, was celebrated at the Kennel Club on September 17th. Brother Ed, a freewheeling spirit of outlaw outrageousness, was a co-founder of the legendary Brotherhood of Light, one of the few psychedlic icons of the 60s culture that has survived into the 90s.

Until last August 1st, the same could be said of the Grey Fox himself.

battle against cirrhosis. In a full tilt life of libidinal mischief, Ed distinguished himself as a poet, chef, entreprencur and teller of tales, as well as one of whom tales were (and will be) told

A man of fine sensibilities, Ed Langdon could cuss the skin off a goat but never pulled a gun or knife on someone who didn't deserve it. Living by a handhewn set of rules that at times Ed lost a valiant, albeit ill-tempered attracted the attention of law enforcechanges in location, Grey Fox rolled lus own for 54 years.

The Kennel Club event was attended by a graying, somewhat thicker waisted set of surviving hipsters with

music provided by White Trash Debutantes and a light show by Jerry Abrams. The event was organized by Kathy Peck and hosted by Dirk Dirksen and featured a bottomless buffet from Capp's Corner.

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DAY OF THE DEAD '91

The inner Mission's position as the creative center of the City on the Bay at the Earth's edge will again be highlighted this coming November 2, evening when San Francisco, the Fall season, and Latin tradition meet on 24th Street for the annual magical Day of the Dead Procession.

We are all part of nature and her cycles. As the year's days become shorter, the green leaves turn gold, die, and re-enter the earth. As the nights become longer, all must be harvested or lest behind to be consumed by mother nature. Here, during Fall, it is believed the veil between the living and the dead is at its thinnest and the ancient need to pay homage to the ancestral spirits through ritual is at its zenith.

The Mission's Dia de Los Muertos was inspired by similar processions in Mexico but has taken on its own unique traditions and each year offer participants new surprises. The event was begun in 1970 by the Galeria de la Raza/Studto 24 and then co-director René Yáñez. Rene remembers the early years when the cops thought he was "some kind of Charlie Manson guy." in the last few years, participation. particularly among the gringo population, has boomed and organizers are expecting a harmonious group equal in size to last year's record 10,000.

For over 20 years the procession and its related aspects have been a creative cauldron of spirit world archetypal visions. The fantastic mixmaster sorcerer facilitating the manifestations of ancient pre-Columbian myths with New World multi-culturalism demands in 1989 and '90 was New College Social Change Lab instructor, Jose Guadelupe Saucedo, This year, due to a commitment to the experimental Los Angeles theatre--Mark Taper Two, Saucedo will not be around for this most informal and spontaneous community art procession. However four of the most popular Day of the Dead features are expected to return with new tricks or treats.

ooms for the Dead, the Rinspired and moving 1990 innovation will return. Begun as part of the now notorious Festival 2000, twenty-five plus rooms each contained an earnest meditation on death, life and afterlife. The 1990 and now '91 Mission Cultural Center Rooms Curator, long-time Mission resident Rene Yanez was very pleased with the level and range of participation last year. The Latin artist, who also writes for the Mission-to-Hollywood Mission-to-Hollywood Export--Culture Clash, especially likes how death is able to bring people together. "I don't like to discriminate. Death doesn't discriminate." he says.

ay of the Dead last year benesitted from dramatic increase in giant puppets, a powerful people's art form. Leading cause was Mission Cultural Center sponsored Cultural Center sponsored workshops led by a then little known group called Wise Fool Puppet Intervention. One year and a gulf oil war later, Wise Fool's profile on the leading edge of next generation San Francisco performing art groups is as tall as their ubiquitous stilt walkers. This movement, whose other prominent members include Contraband and Elbows Akimbo, owes a debt to Mission institution, the San Francisco Mime Troupe for redefining people's theatre in new musical, physical, multi-cultural and over-culture challenging forms. However it is this new



waves exploration of non-verbal communication, re-examination of fossilized theologies and ideologies and a hint of a search for relevant new millennium myths to guide the rest us in our dreams which makes their work so compelling.

K.Ruby together with Amy Christian and a dynamic mix of young artists make up Wise Fool Puppet intervention in its various forms. For Ruby, this will be her seventh Day of the Dead; "What is beautiful in Day of the Dead is it allows us to see lightness in death and play with it."she says. A social activist, who attended every day of the Anarchist National Convention held in the Mission last year, Ruby loves the Mission, "It feels like a real neighborhood still, with a real attempt at some cultural mixing. People trying to work with the melting pot and understand it, and she adds excitedly, "a wonderful arts community." Wise Fool's art is about building bridges for transformation and change and they try to connect with everyday people and children wether it be at Carnaval Grand Parade or the Nevada Nuclear Test site. Last month Wise Fool debuted a free show at Precita Park about alternative energy called "Gigajoules." This month they will be conducting two calaveras

elebrated Aztec dance troupe Xipe Totec has been a part of San Francisco's ceremony as

(skeleton) building workshops at

the Mission Cultural Center for

anyone interested.

1990, Xipe Totec met and then led the procession down the Balmy alley birth canal. Their ceremonial ritual energy combined with the New Orleans sounds of the gate guardian--Jeff Mooney's Bone Drummers created just the right note of anticipation in the candle procession. This November 2, after dancing non-stop for hours, Xipe-Totec (which means renewal) will join others for an all night vigil where they will sing velacions (spiritual songs), honor ancestors, build an alter and at daybreak, according to Adela Ochoa, "We dance." Adela, the domestic partner of artistic director Geraldo Salinas, admires the way San Francisco has made its ceremony its own by involving the entire community and so many contributing elements. She adds that it is important to remember the Mexican part of the tradition which makes it possible for you to "cheat, trick, or play with death." Only in Mexico does death have its own unique persona, a skeleton of many masks who pokes fun at

he highlight of Day of the Dead is the Birth Canal which represents powerful life transformation or rebirth. For multi-cultural artist, Lauren Elder, the Mission's Day of the Dead is extraordinary. The number of people who participate as part of the ceremony itself, even if they are only in skeleton facepaint or carrying a candie, has a very high

El Dia De Los Muertos Procession begins at 7pm on Saturday November 2, at Mission Cultural Center near 25th & Mission (Info 821-1155) 91 Poster by René Castro Rooms for the Dead Opening reception is 10/25--6pm at MCC.(Also 11/2 6pm) The exhibition will run through November and also be at La Raza Graphics (938 Valencia) and Caleria de la Raza/Studio 24 (2857 24th St. 826-8009) Gift store carries an excellent selection of calaveras--comte folk characters wearing death masks. '91 poster by Jos Sances. -------

level of profundity. Elder, an award-winning set designer, who is also well-known for her puppet creations has experienced mixed reactions from students over their participation in the heavy theme of death and rebirth. But its "Part of our life" she responds, " how can we not try to relate."

To journey down Balmy alley and arrive at Lauren's mythical installation representing the transcendent moment of rebirth is unforgettable and moving. The palpable energy around you becomes intensely focused by Elder's brilliant installation of light, color, movement, sound, and archetypal dream images.

Fundamentally, when you contrast death in the U.S.A. today with the ancient wisdom of America's indigenous cultures you find a stark contrast of domination versus harmony with nature. North America has no limit to the amount energy she is willing to spend avoiding death, where death is a horror. Mexican tradition, which inherited the great Mayan culture, where art and everyday life interacted constantly, seeks harmony with nature by attuning itself to the fundamental cycle of all nature--life, death and rebirth. Alberto Viloldo, co-author of The Four Winds and professor at SF State believes that pre-Columbian visions of the Mayan and incan people predict a new era beginning in 1994 where the "jaguar people are no longer burdened with or hunted by death." Participation in Day of the Dead is spiritual sustenance for our souls and one of the Latin cultures greatest potential gifts to the rest of us.

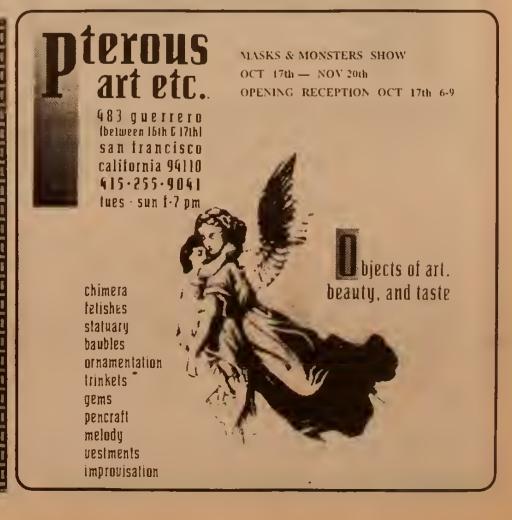
as a deceased relatives party attire.
You may wish to dedicate this Day of the Dead to a particular ancestor. Pin dead flowers on yourself or carry marigolds--the traditional flower of the dead. Voyeurism is disrespectful.
SKELETON MASKS applied

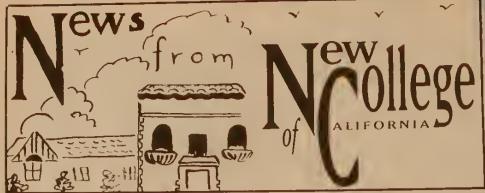
with black and white face paint is the most popular adornment. Make a paper-mache mask or giant calaveras at MCC with Wise Fool Puppet intervention (Ruby-826-7257)
CANDLES Best candle is in glass.

Spiritual candies can be purchased at many stores throughout the Mission including Botanica Yoruba at 21st & Valencia. For best results: burn the candle for several hours prior to the

procession.

DRUM POWER the beat is primal energy-to be respected not understood. Many who can contribute to a rhythm bring simple percussion instruments to be used to ritually break down ego defense mechanisms. No notse-makers or yahoos please. The same of the sa





INDIAN JUSTICE PROGRAM

by Michael J. McAvoy

class entered the New College of California's Indian Justice Systems degree program which it operates in conjunction with the National Indian Justice Center. It is designed to train Native Americans to assist others in gaining justice through courts in both the tribal courts and the U.S. courts system.

For decades tribal courts have operated under extremely adverse conditions. "The systems, not unlike all judicial systems, suffer from growing caseloads and a need to more effectively manage systems," says Abby Abinati, J.D., a Yurok Indian and the program's Director, who also has a Mission District private legal practice. But, she also adds, unlike other systems, the tribal court system is under additional scrutiny from the outside. Thus, an important part of the program is to train graduates in the technical skills to operate the tribal court system in optimal fashion.

The program offers an Associate of Arts degree which students receive after two years of study, as well as the possibility of obtaining a Bachelor's Degree. Students with an A.A. degree in Indian Justice Systems will be qualified to work as senior clerks, court ad-

ministrators, legal advocates and/or judges in the tribal court systems. The first student graduating with a B.A. degree has gone on to New College's Law School to obtain her J.D.

Jon Bellanger, an Ojibway and a second year student in the program, assists in administration and recruitment of students. Jon says that students come from tribes located around the country. In addition, the program is open to non-Native peoples interested in Indian justice.

The curriculum is intensive. The first year provides an introduction to the tribal court system, criminal and civil law, youth and family law issues and tribal court and trial advocacy skills. The second year emphasizes a deeper study of American Indian law, skills in legal research, alternative methods of resciving disputes and requires an internship done in a tribal court system.

This October marks the 499th anniversary of Columbus' arrival on these shores. As the quincentennial approaches, the ugly history of the treatment of Native peoples will become more a part of our explicit knowledge.

The Indian Justice Program at New College, the first of its kind to work specifically for and within Indian systems, is one of those places.



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Editor

O! the Mission is not falling apart. This was not my first response to Mr. Doohan's article "Is the Mission Falling Apart?" (News, September, 1991). But, I went a step further to really think about why these "problems" exist. I discovered that most of the "problems" are symptoms of a greater social disease. The ISM is "I", "self" and "me".

There is a vicious cycle of not having enough and struggling for more. Those who have money and contribute financially to a "problem" receive tax benefits. Those who don't have money and contribute their time don't receive tax benefits. Most of those who don't have the financial resources want them and decide not to contribute their time and instead work a second job or longer hours.

What happens? The only people contributing time can't, but eventually may contribute money. This is how our kids become neglected, for example, and we create a "problem". We become a society dependent on having "problems" that we can throw money at and, in return, receive a tax break. It is an addiction.

This model can be applied to all our "problems". Why did an "all good news" program fail?... no problems for viewers to feed on. Crime, be it drug dealing or white collar, is just the shortest way to the top of the money pile... if you don't get caught. And, when enough individuals figure this out, you are left with a society of criminals and there are not enough good guys left to enforce the law.

I believe there is hope and Mr. Doohan pointed to several examples. People, individuals who have taken it upon themselves to show up and organize and say no to the bad guys. Let's bring more of this resistance above ground.

The Mission has many wonderful firsts to its credit, including the Community Police Officers on Patrol (police walking the beat) and the Step to College Program at Mission High School. We have unknown heroes who we

should celebrate, like Emanuel Stewart from the SF Boys and Girls Club who helps kids stay out of trouble and Judith Mayer, who walked into a local school to say, "what can I do?" and the dozens of residents who show up to work on committees of the Mayor's Task Force on the Mission.

What charity do you donate your time to? Have you spoken to your neighbor, lately? Are you registered to vote? Will you show up to vote?

The question is not whether the Mission is falling apart; it is Why do we as a nation allow every City in the Country to have a neighborhood where we dump what we do not want to see and then complain about it?

Lisa Hamburger, Resident

Editor:

I wish to take this opportunity to say THANK YOU for the care and support I have received from the Latin community and your paper during my recent spell of "hard times".

I am happy to say I am no longer on disability from the recent shooting incident and I have returned to work. The Mission District Captain of police has decided to move me to a new assignment and I have been replaced by a team of officers. Officers Miller, Bannon, Garrick and Johnson should be ample manpower to continue the inroads we have made thus far on the 24th Street corridor.

I would also like to take this opportunity to say GOODBYE to all those I have worked with and for, including: Calle 22 Community Group, MECA, East Mission Community Group, 21st Street Business Owners, SAFE leaders, MEH Community Group and St. Peter's Church.

The Captain made the decision to move me to the Noe Valley area prior to my return to work. I am very thankful to all those who sent letters and cards requesting my return to the area.

I'm happy to say that I will remain in the CPOP program and I will be riding my bicycle. Your support has been invaluable and I'll look for you in the Mission. Thanks,

Officer Lorraine Lombardo

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EL TAZUMAL: LONGTIME FAVORITE

by Christian Ettinger

E1 Tazumal, a veritable little country of exotic tastes, wants Mission residents to sample their cuisine. Central Americans Rigo and Esperanza Paeheco await your empty stomachs at 3522 20th Street between Valencia and Mission, right in our neighborhood's Latino heart. Their generous portions promise to fill these stomachs.

Rigo came to the United States in 1969 from Honduras, the second most impoverished country in the Western Hemisphere. He got a job working with Pacific Telesis - a job he became dissatisfied with. In 1974 he decided to open up a smaller El Tazumal with his wife, Esperanza, a waitress from El Salvador, using savings from their previous jobs. The Pachecos had the restaurant enlarged to its current size in 1982.

When asked if he missed life in Honduras, Mr. Pacheco said, "When you work as much as I do you don't have time to even think about such things." He feels the situation in Central America looks pretty bleak.

But in the Mission it isn't much easier. The restaurant competition is stiff. Raising the price of a burrito may cause regular customers to switch allegiance to the place across the street. The Pachecos are more than willing to take on the competition. According to Rigo, all the entrees on the menu are hot sellers and all the unpopular items have been deleted.

Surprisingly, 90 per cent of El Tazumal's customers are white, many of them tourists. Rigo thinks it's funny that not many Latinos attend his restaurant and feels that this is the case because of the many good reviews the catery has received in Anglo publications such as the San Francisco Chronicle.

Upon entering the restaurant, one notes the cozy, dark wooded walls and plants hanging from the ceiling. The dark, dense interior helps the customer focus on his or her eating experience.

A meal at El Tazumal starts with the ubiquitous chips and salsa. The salsa is spiced with tasty cilantro and moderately hot. "I'm crazy about that salsa," screams a little old lady sitting behind me. The chips are warm and fresh. Complement your chips and salsa with Esperanza's specialty; sweet and satisfying Pina, a pineapple drink. So, go for it. If you're wandering around 20th Street and you're thirsty, drop in and ask Esperanza for some Pina.

Next comes the entree. Every day Rigo and Esperanza fix up different lunch specials. All the selections look yummy. I recommend either Tajadas Conchancho, pork loin chunks marinated and fried with Fried plantains or Carne Asada, char broiled steak with onions, tomato, french fries, refried beans and rice.

With Tajadas Conchancho you get the taste tickle of spicy pork mixed with



SATISFIED DINERS AT EL TAZUMAL

sweet plantains - your enzymes really get rolling. Previously inactive glands in your mouth make their presence known. Even if you don't order Tajadas Conchancho, make sure you try some fried plantains, a Central American delicacy that no Mission meal should be without.

After finishing our meal, me and my trusty cohort Tige were brought closer together by a lovely song emanating from the restaurant's speakers -

Put your head on my shoulder Hold me in your arms ba-by I could have sworn I heard the sizzle in the kitchen harmonizing with the old stand by as I watched Rigo work his magic to the rock steady beat.

A lone tear fell aeross my cheek. Relive the memories - El Tazumal! 3522 20th, 550-0935.





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IN THE CENTER OF THINGS

he 900 block of Valencia between 20th and 21st Street continues to be one of the Mission's most colorful and dynamic areas. Last month's opening of the Club Coffee House at 920 Valencia was the perfect addition to

The 900 block is now the location for a wide variety of arts- related and nonconventional businesses. Botanica Yoruba, a Santeria center on the corner of 21st is right next to long time center of multimedia weirdness and politics Artist Television Access.

Back to the Picture and Galleria de la Libertad hold monthly art openings and Modern Times Books, which will be celebrating 20 years' operation next month, is host to writers, poets and lecturcrs in a continuous series of events.

Gifts Of the Goddess offers a fascinating selection of female esoterica and art while down-to-earth chiropractic and window display of the bones of just about every animal known to man are what's cracking with Dr. Greg

For the stomach, there's the organic-oriented groceries at Valencia Whole Foods and the Val 21 Restaurant or Mexican cuisine with mariachi accompaniment at La Rondalla.

In the midst of all this is the Club Coffee House offering what owner Yousef Barakat says is the best coffee in San Francisco. "We put our emphasis on a good, strong coffee," says Yousef. "It's our special blend that is roasted exclusively for The Club."

When asked to elaborate on the make up of the blend, Bararat became indignant. "Does the Cordon Bleu give up its secrets?" be demanded.

Barakai says that, after searching long and hard for a second location, he was delighted to find an available store front on the 900



CLUB COFFEE HOUSE OWNER YOUSEF BARAKAT AND FRIEND JAN BLISS

block of Valencia.

"I could see that this was a place where we couldn't miss. The neighborhood is not only really alive now, but it's

got tremendous potential to expand."

The Club boasts a 16 oz. latte for only \$1.75 and full range of coffce and espresso drinks to charge the batteries. There are also falafel sandwiches, pastries and Italian sodas for the palate.

Although the Club has been open only a month, chess players are already esconced in cerebral combat (the Club loans out sets). Another interesting part of the Club scene is the S.F. Net, a computer terminal that allows you to chat it up cybernetically with people in other cafes around town and eventually

as far off as L.A. and New York.

The Club has a relaxed, homey atmosphere about it, making it a comfortable place for a quick coffee before sceing a show at ATA or for six or seven cups afterwards as you try to figure out what the show was all about.

The Club will also be featuring monthly art shows by any local artist who wants the space. Better contact them quick if you're intcrested - gallery space is booked through December.

As astounding as the recent growth the cafe and coffce

phenomenon in the Mission has been, the Club seems to have located itself in just the right spot to enhance, rather than compete with, what is already in

The Club Coffee House is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 AM to midnight and Saturday and Sunday, 9:00 AM to midnight.





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WICCE

On Halloween, platoons of children and parents swarm over neighborhood streets in search of the ultimate sugar rush. As parents wonder how they will pay the dentist bills; the dentists dream of ways to spend this windfall prolit. Each child dresses as their favorite goblin, ghost or comic character; many greetings cards sport a green faced witch. These are the sirrealities of a pagan holy day that has been separated from its traditions by patriarchal misinterpretations.

Halloween is a sacred time to remember the 9,000,000 women burned as witches during an orchestrated orgy of exploitation and gynocide. This was a trick that was no treat. Women property owners, women without men as well as women witches, healers and midwives were summarily robbed, tortured and murdered with the excuse of some vague notion of evil doing (that really only existed in the actions of the inquisitors, clergy and executioners).

This time known as the dark ages in history (the burning times in herstory) blocked out the light of metaphysical practice and belief. This was not the last holocaust, though it probably was the beginning of the blood lust and greed of the genocidal holocaust that have followed it. There is nothing sweet about this memory.

This holy day is also a time to honor the crone, the elder, the wisdom of old age. In fact wicce, the word from which "witch" is derived, means "wisdom".

Halloween is a time to affirm the old knowledge, spirituality of paganism: the abilities to heal, to give birth, to pray, to fly. This wicce is a feminization of spirituality, a reclamation of negativized images and a realization that the goddess is an expression of the inner self. (This is a lot to contemplate munching on the sixth bag full of M&M's.) The fulfillment of the pagan vision is far more nourishing than a bag of Sugar Daddies. So much wicce has been negativized by malevolent, sensationalistic reports from the malleus maleficarum and about satanic cults which are patriarchal perversions of matriarchal beliefs. In this era of the Harmonic Convergence and the Aquarian Age, a spiritual awakening is unfolding as many people are opening to the spirituality of the old religion of the goddess. As a new generation of women evolve from the survival concerns of the seventies women's political movement, spirituality is integrated with our ideologies. The beginning of this spiritual journey can be scary and un-

Gifts of the Goddess is a store that opened a year ago to provide a safe place to begin this spiritual inquiry and self awareness, expansion. The first layer of exploration offered is the sale of arts, crafts, herbs, incenses, candles, books, tapes, crystals for the remembrance of the goddess and celebration of magic. (There is an amazingly enormous selection of Tarot cards.) As the needs of the community



are clarified (such as books in Spanish) the store will change and grow.

This is a resource center as well as a business: information, referrals, networking, reference are all available from the staff and books. The books open to knowledge about various traditions and herstories as well as mythology, ritual, Kabalah, self empowerment, astrology, shamanism and healing. The staff gladly shares knowledge with callers and visitors; on Friday and Saturday there is a Spanish speaking woman available for conversation and questions.

There is a wide array of programs, classes and holy day rituals offered at the bookstore. Regular gatherings include: a mini- psychic fair, women's spirit circle, women's support group, women's ritual for recovery, reclaiming the moon time and various offerings about the Kabalah. Special offerings include a Way of the Goddess class that is

an introduction to the goddess (slide show and discussion), creation of sacred space (altars, smudging, casting circle), honoring the goddess (prayers, chants, offerings and rituals). There are also slide shows, lectures, rituals, poetry reading and more. Calendars are available for descriptions of classes and events.

In October one of the special events is a Halloween High Tea celebration on Thursday, October 31st from 1-5 PM. There will be fancy tea food from cucumber sandwiches to cakes. A donation is requested.

For more information, call Gifts of the Goddess (647-8406) or take a step through the door at 973 Valencia Street. Business hours are Monday - Saturday, 12-7 and Sunday 12-6.

Thank you to Linda Lywandowsky, the owner who weaves the dream, for her willingness to introduce me to her store and share information.

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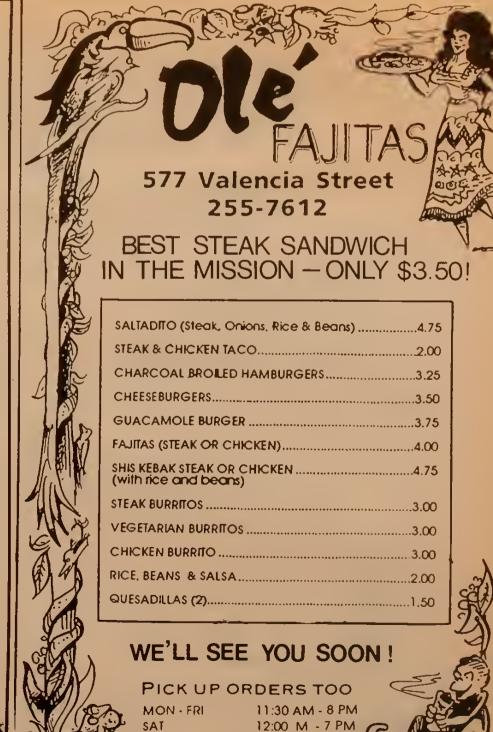


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People often ask me, when should someone have their spine cheeked? My answer is, "As soon as you are born!"

People are often shocked at this answer. The truth is that many deliveries are often very traumatic for both the newborn and for the mother. Chiropractors see many cases of children that, as a result of a rough delivery, appear to be retarded or to have not developed certain reflexes or have excess foot flare (toe out), shoulder problems, etc.

Usually, ehiropractic is a last resort. Many times, these infants have severe pressure on the brain stem due to upper cervical (neck) subluxation (spinal misalignment). Once the pressure is taken off these areas, the child can develop normally! This is done with a careful analysis, examination, history, etc. with corrective spinal adjustments.

Many infants have recurrent ear infections and respond beautifully to chiropractic carc. Medicine recommends antibiotic therapy and tympanostemy (tubes in the eardrum). This therapy robs the intestinal tract of all the friendly microorganisms which aid

digestion and the immunity function. One reason infants respond so well to chiropractic is that their structural problems are not old, chronic problems as are found in older people.

Why does trauma exist in the birth room? This question is very deep and a hard one to answer. Maybe someone out there can respond to this question by writing in to Valencia Chiropractic, 969 Valencia Street, San Francisco 94110. Please tell me why it's necessary to hang a newborn by its ankles and then slap its behind? Where in the books does it say that life must begin traumatically?

Studies were done on babies who died from S.I.D.S. (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome), a condition where babies died in their sleep from unknown causes. It was proven that the only common thread running through these cases was hemorrhages of the brain stem and upper spinal cord. this area of the brain stem controls breathing, and the studies suggest these areas were injured during a rough delivery. Mother Nature's time clock is not being respected!

More women need to be in charge in the birthing room. Let's give credit where it is due. Women are the experts on birth and mothering. Instead of giving midwives a hard time and threatening their livelihood, they should be subsidized for a healthier future for our children.

I've given some excellent reasons why cheeking your babies is emphatically eritical. Could S.I.D.S. babies have been saved if they'd been under chiropractic eare? Well, I'll let you answer this.

So... Chiropractic care for children? An emphatic YES!

P.S. It's great for bedwetting, too!



YOUR CHILD'S EYES

by Dr. Chester Quan

Vision plays an important role in helping ehildren adapt to the wrold around them and in excelling in everyday activities. As a parent, you can help your child by making sure he or she has quality vision care.

The time to start caring for your child's eyes is during the first weeks after birth when vision skills first begin to develop. You can help your child perfect these skills and prevent vision problems from affecting their lives by following these steps:

- Observe your child's visual behavior. Be alert for signs such as an eye turning in or out, frowning or eye rubbing.
- Develop vision skills. Hang a mobile on your baby's erib, keep toys within your baby's view and talk to your baby as you walk around the room.
- Seek early professional evaluation. Take your child to an optometrist for a thorough eye examination before age three and again before entering

school. Early diagnosis of a vision problem is important to successful treatment.

Vision problems among the very young are generally uncommon. Two to be alert for, however, are strabismus (crossed-eyes) and amblyopia (lazy eye). Crossed eyes involve one or both eyes persistently turning inward, outward, upward or downward. If you notice this, it is time to see an optometrist, as untreated crossed eyes can lead to other vision problems.

Lazy eye is one of the most scrious. It involves a loss of sharp, clear central vision in one eye which cannot be corrected with glasses alone. Lazy eye may occur for other reasons, also, and it usually has no noticeable symptoms. Both of these conditions can be diagnosed by your optometrist in a thorough vision examination and treated with eye patching, corrective lenses, prisms and/or vision therapy.

If you have any more questions concerning this topic, please call Dr. Chester Quan at 3199 16th Street (at Guerrero), 241-0240.

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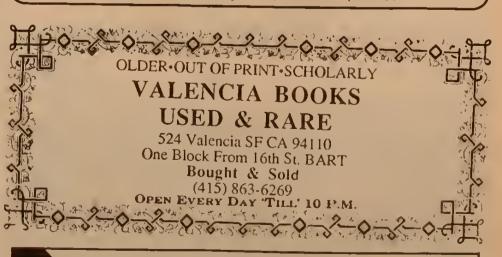


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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4

Theatre of Yugen - Hoppoh Butoh Group of Japan at Project Artaud's "Noh Space", 2840 Mariposa. 8 PM, \$10-12, 885-6962 (also 5th).

The Dreamer Examines His Pillow - a new play by John Patrick Shanley, author of Cher's movie "Moonstruck" presented by Glass Eye Productions at Studio 2505, 2505 Mariposa between Bryant and Potrero. "A serio-comic look at the affair of two young streetwise New Yorkers" in which "the girl's tough, burned-out artist father makes some painful discoveries about himself. Thursdays through Saturdays through 27th, 8 PM, \$8-10, 621-7933.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5

Sphinxes Without Secrets - female performance-art videos featuring Diamanda Galas, Laurie Anderson, Johanna Went, Scarlet Harlot and many more at ATA, 992 Valencia. 8:30 PM, \$5, 824-3890.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6

Women With Cancer - reading and book party for the new anthology "1 in 3" at Modern Times, 968 Valencia. 7 PM, Free, 282-9246.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 7

Stone Gone Mad - former elementary school principal Jacqueline Holt Park reads from her debut novel; a lesbian odyssey about a woman coming to grips with her sexual and spiritual identity. Old Wives' Tales Bookstore, 1009 Valencia, 8 PM. \$3-10, 821-4675.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8

A Green Relationship to the Land discussion with Paul Johnson, Vice President of the San Francisco Henry George School of Social Science at New College, 777 Valencia. 7:30 PM, \$3-10,

Grandmothers of the Light - reading/bookparty with Paula Gunn Allen, feminist Laguna-Sioux author of mythic about Native American wisewomen at Modern Times, 968 Valencia. 8 PM, Free, 282-9246.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9

Pressed, a Celebration of Women -Broads off Broadway and the Asian American Theatre Company present a collection of short pieces directed by "honorary Broad" Charles E. Polly at 21 Bernice Street (near 12th & Harrison) Wednesdays - Sundays through November 3rd, 8:30 PM with a 3:30 PM Sunday matinee. \$10-12, 752-2600.

Peruvian Cinema Showcase - highlights two films about street children in Lima. "Gregorio" (in Spanish) shows at New College, 777 Valencia, 8 PM, \$5. An English subtitled version plays Oct. 13th at the York Theater, 2:30 PM. "Juliana" (also in Spanish) is followed by Peruvian dance & music at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez near 24th on Oct. 11th at 7 PM, \$8. Other Bay Area programs and info 285-3653 or 931-8301.

Belle Reprieve - a "gender bending musical review" inspired by Tennessee Williams' A Streetcar Named Desire and performed by members of the London gay men's Bloolips group and the New York lesbian theater company Split Britches. Wednesdays through Sundays, 8 PM through 27th at the Victoria Theater near 16th and Mission, 861-507. \$14-25 gets you "steamy Southern sexuality, tap dances, bathtub scenes, torn t-shirts and ukuleles..."

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10

La Nueva Onda - video screenings sponsored by Cine Accion at ATA, 992 Valencia, 8 PM. (English-only folks: think French movies in the 50s, Britrock in the 70s...)

Women of Color: Agents of Social Change - a reading by Gwen Carmen, Luz Alvarez Martinez and Merle Woo of "Morena" newspaper at Old Wives' Tales, 1009 Valencia. \$3-10, 821-4675.

Erotic Festival - to benefit SF Now and Coyote featuring Pat Califia, Scarlt Harlot, Mistress Kat and MCd by former LAPD cop/eall girl Norma Jean Almodovar at DNA, 11th and Harrison. \$8, 9 PM, 558-8112. Slurp!

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11

The Rock Show - Southern Exposure Gallery explores art created for the music scene and the work of artists inspired by contemporary music at off and on-site locations, the latter being "The Rock Roll Bedroom", a multimedia installation curated by Dawn Holliday, Rick Rees and others through November 11th. Reception 6 PM, 401 Alabama, 547-0299.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12

Pink Noise - a clandestine benefit for the clandestine needle exchange program Prevention Point at a location to be announced by a mailing and/or word of mouth. Affiliated with the Rock Show (see 11th) - draw your own conclusions.

One Neek - welcome to dinner at the Sag Harbor home of Wes and his four friends who "discuss (not always in a politically correct manner) art, crime, racism, the homeless, women's issues, paranoia, fear, guns, drugs, chaos, control, cramps and Chinese food" and meet Lucian, a stranger whose "secret desires" lead to "a horrific climax". Intersection, 446 Valencia through Nov. 2. \$10, 626-3311 for times and reservations.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13

A Mission Dolores Birthday Concert - on its Big 200th. The Mission Dolores Basilica Choir eelebrates the first structure in what is now San Francisco at 7 PM at 3321 16th Street. Free, but donations gratefully accepted. 641-

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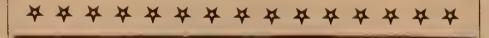
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MONDAY, OCTOBER 14

Columbus - the Michael Milken of the Mediterranean - deconstruction of the 500th anniversary begins a year early at New College, 777 Valencia, 7 PM. Musicians, actors, a singing CIA agent, radio personality Scoop Nisker and comedians for \$7 at the door (864-8472).

Obake - Brenda Wong Aoki's adaptation of four Japanese and Chinese ghost stories featuring a snake woman's relentless passion, a dead wife's revenge, a Monkey King's triumph over death and the last dance of a ballerina in a Japanese WW II internment camp. Alternates with The Queen's Garden, a drama of Hawaiian youth gangs in Los Angeles. Climate Theatre, 252 9th Street through November 3rd. \$10-14, reservations and info: 626-9196.

Men Dancing 10 - Foggy City Dancers, Remy Charlip and others at Theater Artaud, 450 Florida. 8 PM, \$12-15, 621-7797 (through 20th).

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17

Amazonia: Voices of the Forest award winning documentary at Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission, 8 PM. Co-producer Monti Aguirre will be present in another of Cine Accion's fall presentations, 553-8135.

The Green Reader - publication reading by a panel of San Francisco Greens at Modern Times, 968 Valencia,

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19

Our Bodies, Our Selves - ATA's "Sisters' Pictures" series continues with short films/videos about sex-changes, bulimia, female ejaculation and women's body-building. 8:30 PM, 992 Valencia, \$5, 824-3890.

Old Wives' Tales 15th Birthday throws a party for customers with a 20% off salc, 11 AM to 7 PM (also 20th) 1009 Valencia, 821-4675.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22

It Doesn't Begin Till the Fat Lady Sings - Anita Mashman (sic) and the folks at InFATuation Press celebrate "tempestuous, feisty fat eighteenth century heroines; sophisticated, alluring fat modern seductresses; perky, sexy fat cheerleaders/prom queens and smoldering, sloe-eyed fat femme fatales. 7 PM for a fat \$20 fee (pre-registration required by 15th - 550-7399) at Good Vibrations. Or catch "Roseanne" at 9 PM for free.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23

Benefit for Intersection - Josef Brinckman and Conspiracy of Equals, Diana Trimble, and the Bedlam Rovers at 446 Valencia, 8:30 PM, \$5 (626-2787).

Scary Stories - get in the mood for Halloween with Belinda Sullivan at Mission Library, 3359 24th as part of the African-American Storytelling Festival. 7 PM, 695-5090.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24

Dead Elvis - big time rock critic Greil Marcus discusses his new book about the thriving posthumous career of Elvis Presley at Modern Times, 968 Valencia. 8 PM, Free, 282-9246.

The Importance of Being Ernesto - Dance by Ernesto Sanchez at Footwork, 3221 22nd. 8:30 PM, \$10, 824-5044 (through 26th).

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25

GLOE Show! - a cabaret of senior performers at Metropolitan Community Church, 150 Eureka near 18th. 8 PM, also Saturday at 2:30 PM, free to seniors, \$5 to young whippersnappers (626-7000).

Ribs! - in which "the auditioner and the agent live through the power plays between the supplicant and the broker of dreams in a world where morals are cheap and a clairvoyant computer holds the keys to fame and fortune." This "super-real, expressionistic" premiere is at Theatre Pomegranate, 495 Clementina (the press release says "between 5th and 6th streets one block north of Folsom", they mean hyper-real 6th and Howard, a bottle's toss from Wino Park). Through Nov. 16th, no admission price listed, 512-7965.

Moving Basis - a weekend of new and repertory modern dance at Third Wave, 3316 24th, 8:30 PM (also 26th). \$8-10, 536-5231.

Girljock Magazine - reading on "the edges of pornography, satire, politics and fashion" by Roxxic, Femme Jock and Kris Kovick at Old Wives' Tales, 1009 Valencia. \$3-10, 821-4675.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26

Witchcraft Through the Ages - 1920's Swedish documentary on wicked cults is livened considerably by a jazz soundtrack and narration by William ("Naked Lunch") Burroughs plus Donna Read's "Burning Times" excoriating various capitalists and patriarchs at ATA, 992 Valencia. 8:30 PM, \$5, 824-3890.

Early Recovery from Addictions - libarate yourself from alcohol, drugs, eating, work, gambling and sex (but not your money... it's free!) at Everett Middle School, 450 Church, 6 PM. To register, call 585-5150

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27

Rock Talk - spoken word performances by musicians and writers curated by Ann Powers and Dawn Holliday at Slims, 333 11th to benefit the Musicians with AIDS Fund. 621-3330 for performers and information.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 28

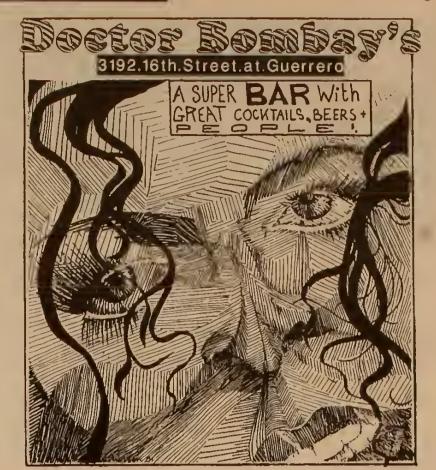
I Am the Band - music and performance highlighting the changing role of women in rock to benefit the Women's Cancer Research Center at the Paradise Lounge, 11th and Folsom. Info: 861-6906.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29

Day of the Dead Craftspeople - make trick or treat bags or other spooky crafts at Mission Library, 3359 24th, 3:30 PM.

In Defense of Sexual Expression - discussion with Bobby Lilly of Californians Against Censorship Together, 7 PM at Good Vibrations, 1210 Valencia. Free, 550-7399.

A Woman's Work is Never... - black lesbians read from their work, featuring Darlene Angela, Stephanie Henderson, Ntombi and Stephanie Smith at Old Wives' Tales, 1009 Valencia. \$3-10, 821-4675







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 by (Robert Cole and Lowell Williams

ALMANAC: October will be a pretty mellow month astrologically. All of the planets will be in direct motion with only a very short retrograde by Saturn in the first of this month. The New Moon in Libra comes on the 7th and John Lennon's birthday is on the 9th. Columbus Day on the 14th signals the beginning of the 500th anniversary of the Europeans' arrival in the New World. There's a Full Moon on the day the Sun enters Scorpio, the 23rd followed on the 24th by United Nations Day. Daylight Time will end on the 27th and we will celebrate Halloween, of course, on the 31st. The harvest is in, now we look to the long, cold days of winter.

ARIES (MAR 21 - APR 19): Lots of stuff about relationships will bring both love and hate into your picture this month. If you're dealing with people you simply cannot stand, be honest and terminate the contracts between you as soon as possible. On the other hand, if you're in love, like madly in love with a special someone, go totally overboard, lose control, flip completely out. Your pal will indulge your insanity.

TAURUS (APR 20 - MAY 20): Any relentless, pounding pain that has all but destroyed your sense of humor in the last month will miraculously melt away as October dawns. You can stop grinding your teeth; you can stop hiding out at home; you can turn off the TV for a while. It's tie to get involved again and let that bright, cheerful smile of yours inspire others with hope and inspiration. If neighbors want to elect you to a special post, please oblige.

GEMINI (MAY 21 - JUN 20): A vortex of health questions gathers around you this month. It seems that the problems and solutions which have dominated the lives of several close friends have seeped through your aura; be especially keen to any contagious illness going around. Righteously guard your privacy and, remember, rest is a step to perfect health. P.S. If a young person wants to hang out with you, let it happen. You really turn him/her on.

CANCER (JUN 21 - JUL 22): After a whole month of utter hysteria in your home, the dust finally starts to settle and the good times that you originally envisioned ever so delicately begin to take place. You'll be amazed at the level of romance and adventure which will surround you and your housemate by Halloween. Apparently the move, as troublesome as it was at first, did wonders for you both financially. So follow the urge to splurge.

LEO (JUL 23 - AUG 22): There's one more month of temporary loneliness as several of the planets reach their annual nadir this month. It's not like friends and lovers are ignoring you, but during this season you just can't seem to get what you want from those committed to making you happy. Step back from the personal stuff and get wrapped up in challenging intellectual pursuits. Fall in love with the intellectual rather than - the emotional. P.S. Call brother/sister.

VIRGO (AUG 23 - SEP 22): The strong convictions around which you organized your life back at birthday time have pushed aside some old, dear friends who just don't or won't understand what you're going through. Now you must carefully watch yourself so that you don't slip in a pool of remorse or superficial generosity. Mind your

business, save money and pay more attention to the material aspects of life rather than the spiritual ones. Old friends will always be there.

LIBRA (SEP 23 - OCT 22): Millions and millions of Librans arc celebrating their birthdays during this time of the year. During this season Mother Nature provides us all with a perfect image of the Libra Magic which you possess in every cell in your body. The hyper-productivity of spring and summer mellows into the peaceful harmony of autumn. Bring your special powers into situations requiring cooperation and diplomacy. You're the kcy to peace. P.S. Watch the weight.

SCORPIO (OCT 23 - NOV 22): Toward the end of the month the Sun, Mercury and Mars will be joining Pluto in your sign, bringing considerable attention to the tired, weak and vulnerable parts of life. As strange as it may sound, you'd rather deal with sensitive complications and near-death experiences rather than the hyperbolic, constantly working compulsions of the workaholics. Shut down business. Recant on all commitments. Look

seriously at what's real.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV 23 - DEC 21): During this time called Indian Summer your psychic centers always open up and you gain amazingly clear vision of dimensions which are normally hidden from view. This is the annual visitation from the people in the UFOs. It's when you are inspired to fly up and out of your body especially at night when you should be sleeping in restful unconsciousness. This year keep a diary of your daylight visions and your nighttime

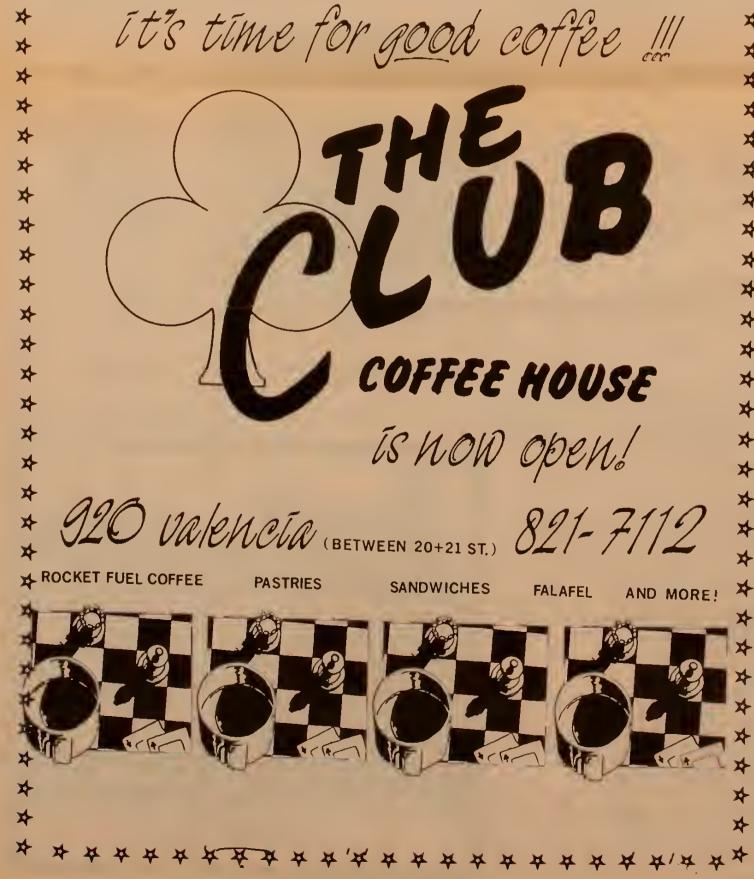
dreams. Big-time messages. CAPRICORN (DEC 22 - JAN 19): Your popularity continues to shine until mid-month. Everybody you know seems willing to kiss your fanny. You've made a major impression on the people you love and live with this year. On or about the 23rd, the priorities will change. Be

prepared to receive a big offer, a glamorous opportunity, a vision of the perfect future. It's crucial that you

strategy unfold through November, and then move quickly.

AQUARIUS (JAN 20 - FEB 18): In the process of accepting more and more responsibility this summer it seems as if your power to distinguish between shoulds and should nots has all but disappeared. At harvest time, there's a big difference between reaping weeds and reaping the true fruit. At this point you must gather successes which are worth your while. P.S. There are also signs that some long distance travel is in your stars. If so, send us a postcard in care of this paper.

PISCES (FEB 19 - MAR 20): Your aura continues to sizzle with sexy passion. Problems left over from the summer melt away as you unleash your natural beauty on those who not so long ago were your enemies. Smile! Smile! Smile! Charm and enchant your old associates especially, and be very wary of nuzzling up to a new face on the block. The honesty and integrity which you manifest now will set a standard in your relationships for the coming year. Let it ★ all hang out!





IRAQNOPHOBIA

by Frank Deadbeat

room – flicker of blue screens smells like burnt meat. A line graph pointing straight to TV hell – the Presidents confer.

"You see our problem, George. Opinion research polls prophecy the worst Fall in Network history. I mean, just look at this lineup!"

Swivel toward the wall of screens, remote control.

"On CBS we have 'Hamster Town', a dramatic series. Great American plays and short stories condensed for television, only instead of people as aetors we got these cute non-union hamsters in little suits, see? When we test marketed the idea, projections went through the roof – but then it turns out the hamsters don't like their little suits, they want more money, throw tantrums on the set – we gotta hire a bunch of seabs – rats, actually – and, well, you can guess what the advertisers said about that. Revenues in the toilet."

"And ABC?

"ABC leads off on Thursday nights with 'Spic & Spam', a heartwarming but socially relevant sitcom a la Norman Lear, about a family of illegal immigrants living in the men's room of an El Paso Chevron station with a 300 lb. albino serial killer named Spam. Laughs ensue when Manuela, the pregnant teenaged daughter, misearries — and we learn of Spam's eannibalistic tendencies. The pilot's already bombed in a dozen test market cities — everyplace but Texas and Arizona, of course."

"What about NBC?"

"'Not A Prayer' - about a motor-cycle-riding priest who bumps his head

552-4429



in an accident and thinks he's a detective..."

"Enough. I see your problem. Now what do you want me to do about it?"

The execs pull out another line graph — peaks and valleys like a mountain range.

"This represents the ratings of our news departments over the last two years — and our best hope for saving the Networks despite competition from CNN. Notice that our most sustained peak — a plateau, actually — corresponds to the months of the Gulf War. Rivalled in viewership only by the Soviet coup, but that was so brief we barely had time to capitalize."

"I'm sure there'll be plenty more

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news from that part of the world, boys, what with Boris' heart condition and the breakaway Republics..."

"True, Mr. President, but that won't solve our problem. The Russian thing's already lost its novelty — no one really cares about Kirgizistan. What we need is something with American appeal — something folk can feel good about, wave some flags. We've been talking to the studio boys, and the advice they gave us made a lot of sense."

"Which was?"

"One word... sequel. I mean, just look at the success of T2 - not to mention the Freddy movie, the Bill and Ted movie, Rocky, Rambo, Jaws, Star Trek. What we need to do is identify our big-

gest hit — which we have — and repeat it. We're talking Desert Storm II, George. Live round-the-clock coverage, smartbomb footage, discussion panels, parades afterwards — literally hundreds of hours of prime, revenue-generating airtime."

"What's the angle?"

"Oh you know, the usual thing. Saddam's non-compliance with U.N. weapons inspections — his flagrant disrespect for democratic values — kids in Baghdad not starving fast enough. Not to mention it would distract from the domestic crisis that the democrats will try to use in '92..."

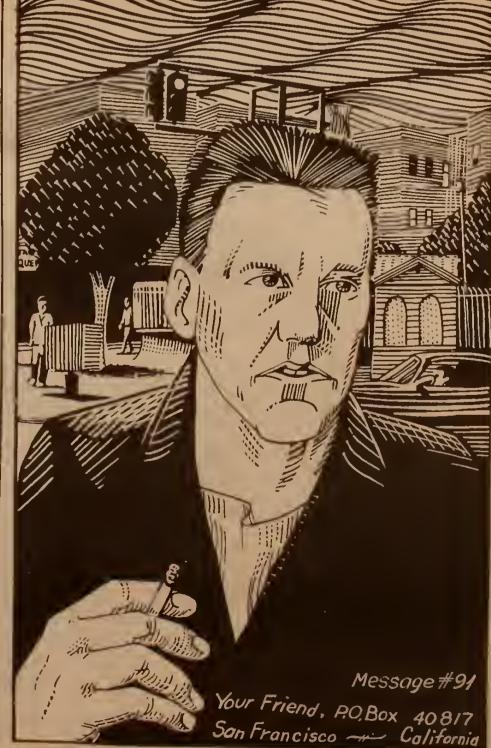
"Like I need help to beat the democrats? But, then again, there's that Congress and, OK, I see your point. In fact, we've been discussing the same thing at the White House. Only reason we left Saddam in power in the first place was so he could kill off as many Kurds and Shiites as possible — that way when we do take him out we got no upstart breakaways to deal with. Set up any kind of government we want in Iraq — and no one big enough to tell us different. It's a unipolar world now, boys."

"Does that mean you'll do it?"

"Heck, boys, we'll not only make the news, we'll feed it to you - - words and pictures. All you have to do is broadcast it - and this time throw in all the commercial breaks you want, so the American people know what it is they're fighting for!"

A collective sigh of relief from the three Network Presidents: "We knew we could count on you to save our ratings, George."







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